

REMARKS

Minor corrections have been made to the specification. Claims 15-19 and 38-41 have been cancelled. Claims 44-59 have been added. Claims 1-14, 20-37, 42-43 and 44-59 remain pending. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application, as amended, are requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 15-17, 19, 40 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kaneko (U.S. 4,603,467). Claims 18 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious on consideration of Kaneko in view of Frinkelstein et al. (U.S. 4,580,194). The product claims 15-19 and 38-41 have been rewritten as product claims 44-47 and product by process claims 48-59. All of the new claims are within elected group II of the Restriction Requirement.

Kaneko '467 is directed to a chip-type aluminum electrolytic capacitor and a method of manufacturing the capacitor. The relevant description of the manufacturing process and the resultant capacitor is contained in the following passage at column 4, lines 14-25 and lines 33-35:

The outer surfaces of the insulating spacers 8 are covered with the folded cathode foil 5 such that the anode and cathode foils 1 and 5 overlap each other through the insulating spacers 8. In this state, an electrolytic solution is dropped between the anode and cathode foils 1 and 5, or the assembly is dipped in an electrolytic solution to form a capacitor element. As shown in FIG. 1, the two surfaces of the capacitor element are sandwiched within a folded synthetic insulating laminate film 9. While the thin external leads 3 and 6 are exposed, the openings of the laminate film 9 are welded and sealed by heating or ultrasonic welding.

...

When the capacitor element is encapsulated with a synthetic resin after being sealed with the laminate film 9, it is placed in a mold for plastic encapsulation.

Independent claim 44, on the other hand, requires:

... a flexible casing that houses the capacitor element and is hermetically sealed to define an inside of said flexible casing, the inside of the flexible casing being under reduced pressure compared to ambient pressure outside of the flexible casing.

The capacitor of Kaneko encapsulates ambient air along with the capacitor element. The capacitor of claim 44 requires a hermetically sealed flexible casing having an inside with reduced pressure compared to ambient pressure outside of the flexible casing. Kaneko does not disclose

an inside of a flexible casing with reduced pressure. Hence, claim 44 is not anticipated by Kaneko.

Claims 45-47 depend from claim 44 and further define it. They are also not anticipated by Kaneko.

Claim 48 requires:

... a flexible casing that houses the capacitor element and is hermetically sealed to define an inside of said flexible casing, the inside of the flexible casing being under reduced pressure compared to ambient pressure outside of the flexible casing, said capacitor being made using a process comprising a step wherein the flat capacitor element is subjected to an aging treatment after being sealed in said flexible casing.

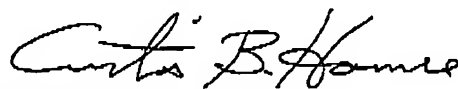
Kaneko not only does not disclose the product capacitor of claim 44, but also does not disclose such product made by a process comprising the step wherein the flat capacitor element is subjected to an aging treatment after being sealed in the flexible casing. Thus, the capacitor of claim 48 is not anticipated by Kaneko. Claims 49-59 depend from claim 48 and further define it by adding limitations and/or elements. These claims are neither anticipated nor obvious in view of the cited references.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination are requested. Allowance of claims 44-59 at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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